

## 2016 Trophy Bass Propagation Program

### Sponsor Information

#### Background:

The goal of the Trophy Bass Propagation Program is to collect trophy-sized bass (females over 8 lb and males over 6 lb) to be used as broodstock at our state hatcheries. By pairing male and female largemouth bass which have already shown the ability to grow to larger-than-average size, we hope to produce offspring with the same genetic growth potential. Stocking these offspring across the state could provide anglers a better chance at catching a memorable-sized fish or even a new state record.

The uniqueness of the program is that the trophy bass broodstock are supplied voluntarily through angler catches across the state. To acknowledge angler participation in the program, replica fish mounts will be provided to all anglers donating their fish.

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) is therefore seeking assistance for the Trophy Bass Propagation Program in the form of partial or full sponsorship of replica fish mounts. The number of replica fish mounts awarded to anglers in a given year will vary based on the number of trophy bass donated. Providing fish mounts to participating anglers should increase participation allowing for broodstock donations to eventually support the entire bass stocking program in Kentucky.

#### Timeframe:

In accordance with KRS 45A.085(2) this sponsorship will be posted on the Agency's website for a minimum of seven (7) calendar days, beginning on April 20, 2016. This sponsorship opportunity may also be linked to other Commonwealth web sites, the Kentucky Afield radio and television shows as practicable, and awareness will be raised through other media, such as publication in newspapers, press releases, and social media as practicable. Also, each sponsorship opportunity includes specific commitments, as described herein.

#### Initiative:

KDFWR has an established bass stocking initiative utilizing hatchery-raised broodstock. The majority of offspring are raised to approximately 5 inches and stocked each year in the fall. Stocking locations are determined from predictive regression models which determine potential poor year-classes in lakes across the state. Bass are stocked on top of these poor year classes to try and improve overall densities at age-1.

Broodstock in the current program are not selected based on growth potential, so offspring could be considered "average" when considering their potential to grow to trophy size. The new Trophy Bass Propagation Program is designed to select those broodstock which have shown greater genetic ability to grow to large size and use them in the hatchery spawning process. The result should be offspring which have a greater chance to reach trophy size and a greater chance for an angler to catch a trophy fish in the lakes which they are stocked.

If KDFWR were to obtain trophy broodstock from public lakes across the state through the use of electrofishing gear, it may be looked upon as unethical or not supported by Kentucky anglers. As a result, the Trophy Bass Propagation Program seeks to obtain broodstock from the wild through voluntary donations by Kentucky anglers. This process lets the anglers choose if they want to donate their fish to the program. If they are not in favor, they can release the fish or take it for themselves. In

order to make this decision more inviting, the program will reward the angler with a replica mount of their fish if they choose to donate it.

KDFWR is therefore seeking sponsors for the Trophy Bass Propagation Program in the form of either a reduction of the price to produce replica mounts or as a full donation of the replica fish mounts. Offers will be accepted based on eventual costs per replica mount to the Department, and those businesses or individuals offering full mount donations will receive preference over partial cost reimbursements.

### **Sponsorship Opportunities:**

#### **KDFWR IS SEEKING ASSISTANCE FOR THE TROPHY BASS PROPAGATION PROGRAM. ASSISTANCE MAY BE PROVIDED AS FOLLOWS:**

Sponsor(s) would provide a reduction in cost per fish replica mount or donate fish replica mounts free of cost to the Department.

- **Sponsorship:** Strong private partnerships are essential to continue and improve the fish and wildlife conservation successes and the fishing and hunting traditions in Kentucky. By committing to this Sponsorship, sponsors help KDFWR achieve our mission and mandate as the stewards of wildlife in the Commonwealth. In return for this Sponsorship, your business will have significantly increased potential in getting your brand and messages delivered to anglers, boaters, and wildlife conservationists throughout the entire state of Kentucky and non-residents who participate in these activities in Kentucky.

#### **KDFWR IS SEEKING SPONSORSHIP OF THE TROPHY BASS PROPAGATION PROGRAM IN THE FORM OF THE PRODUCTION OF REPLICA LARGEMOUTH BASS MOUNTS. SPONSORSHIP MAY BE PROVIDED AT ONE OF THREE POTENTIAL LEVELS: 1) FULL DONATION OF REPLICA BASS MOUNTS; 2) COST-SHARE BASIS FOR REPLICA BASS MOUNTS; OR 3) A COMBINATION OF 1 AND 2.**

Note: Selected Sponsor(s) will be expected to provide replica bass mounts within 6 months of receiving orders. Total lengths, weights, girths, and pictures of the bass will be supplied to the sponsor(s) by KDFWR at the time of the order.

### **EVALUATION**

KDFWR will review all responses. Potential sponsors must include an itemized cost expected for potential replica mounts. If the sponsor is not offering to donate the replicas free of cost to KDFWR, an itemized invoice for the potential replica mounts should be provided which shall include total cost incurred by the sponsor and total cost to KDFWR. Potential sponsors should also provide a point of contact for further correspondence. The Department reserves the right to reject potential sponsors whose branding, image and/or mission are in conflict with the Department's goals, mission, and values or are not appropriate for the nature of this sponsorship.

**Note:** KDFWR reserves the right to reject potential sponsors whose branding, image and/or mission are in conflict with the Department's goals, mission, and values or are not appropriate for the nature of this sponsorship. Selected sponsor(s) are expected to provide support and meet their obligations on an annual, calendar-year basis. All sponsors electing to provide either financial and/or "in-kind" services/products must submit via email, defining the level of sponsorship and/or services/products to the attention of: [ron.brooks@ky.gov](mailto:ron.brooks@ky.gov).